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### **NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release**



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### **NEBRASKA'S TOP YOUTH ELITE SHOWMAN TAKE SPOTLIGHT AT THE NEBRASKA STATE FAIR**

GRAND ISLAND – Winners of the annual Nebraska Elite Showman Competition took center stage at the Nebraska State Fair over Labor Day weekend. This was the tenth year for the event which is coordinated by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA), the Nebraska Rural Radio Association and the Nebraska State Fair.

“Programs such as the Elite Showman Competition are very important in encouraging youth in our state to be involved in agriculture and being proud of their heritage,” NDA Director Greg Ibach said. “This program fits in well with our department’s youth outreach initiative. We truly appreciate the incentives and support provided by our partners for this project.”

4-H and FFA members are selected at the county level to compete in the state competition which includes cash incentives.

“We get great representation throughout the state for this competition,” NDA’s Christin Kamm said, “This year we had over 30 counties represented at the State Fair and the quality of the competition just keeps getting better.”

Kamm, who helps coordinate the event, said the competitors are scored on beef, swine, and sheep showmanship as well as interview skills and knowledge via a written test. Winners are selected for each division along with first, second and third place overall winners.

Division winners are awarded \$300 each. The top overall Elite Showman receives \$2,000, the second place finisher receives \$1,000 and the third place overall winner receives \$500. All other competitors receive a \$50 prize.

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The 2015 Elite Showman division winners were:

Swine Showmanship: Jaclyn Heinrich from Lancaster County  
Sheep Showmanship: Chandler Schelkopf from Fillmore County  
Beef Showmanship: Neligh Gehl from Wheeler County  
Written Test: Cody Hambleton from Nance County  
Interview: Neligh Gehl from Wheeler County

The 2015 overall winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> place overall: Neligh Gehl from Wheeler County  
2<sup>nd</sup> place overall: Catherine Jones from Douglas/Sarpy County  
3<sup>rd</sup> place overall: Chandler Schelkopf from Fillmore County

Other participants included: Ryan Schroeder (Cuming), Olivia Groeteke (Boone), Libbi Loos (Sherman), Payton Schaneman (Saline), Sydnee Strain (Scotts Bluff), Brice Hodson (Lincoln), Bradie Schmidt (Washington), Calvin DeVries (Adams), Jordan Wilbur (Franklin), Madeline Roth (Howard), Sophia Lentfer (Gage), Malina Lindstrom (Phelps), Riley Eisenhauer (Gosper), Edward Spencer (Buffalo), Kelsay Schlichtman (Jefferson), Colton Fangmeier (Thayer), AJ Underwood (York), Katie Bresnahan (Polk), Delaney Schmer (Hamilton), Zach Diessner (Greeley), Madison Perkins (Dodge), Emily Keiser (Dawson), Tristan Snover (Seward), G O'Dea (Red Willow), Austin Kempf (Wayne), Kendra Marxsen (Colfax), Brittany Jefferson (Merrick), Chyanna Sharp (Webster), Collin Roeber (Cass).

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Photographs of the division winners and the overall winners are attached.

Division Winners.jpg – From L to R: Chandler Schelkopf, Neligh Gehl, Jaclyn Heinrich, Cody Hambleton

Overall Winners.jpg – From L to R: Neligh Gehl, Catherine Jones, Chandler Schelkopf